

FACT SHEET



CDSS Housing and Homelessness Bureau

The Housing and Homelessness Bureau (Bureau) is within the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The Bureau is responsible for program development and oversight of statewide housing programs funded by the CDSS. In addition to program and policy development, the Bureau also serves as a statewide technical assistance provider to all of California’s social services agencies. The Bureau aims to streamline services on both the local and statewide level, to ensure all Californians have equal access to safe and affordable housing.

Bureau Overview

The Housing and Homelessness Bureau oversees five CDSS funded housing programs with combined funding totaling over \$250 million.

- These five programs assist children, families, and individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability who are served by various departments within the county social services agency. These include: CalWORKs, child welfare, county general assistance/general relief programs, disability benefits programs, and Adult Protective Services. The chart below summarizes these programs.

Funding for CDSS Housing Programs			
Program	Year	Allocation and Counties Participating	
CalWORKs Homeless Assistance	FY 2017-18	\$54 million spent in FY17-18	All 58 Counties <i>(Entitlement Benefit in CalWORKs)</i>
CalWORKs Housing Support Program**	FY 2014-15	\$20 million	20 participation counties
	FY 2015-16	\$35 million	44 participating counties
	FY 2016-17	\$47 million	48 participating counties
	FY 2017-18	\$47 million	49 participating counties
	FY 2018-19	\$71.2 million	52 participating counties
Bringing Families Home**	FY 2016-19	\$10 million plus \$10 million county match	12 participating counties
Housing and Disability Advocacy Program**	FY 2017-20	\$45 million state funds plus \$45 million county match	39 participating counties
Home Safe**	FY 2018-21	\$15 million plus \$15 million in county match	25 counties participating in partnership with 10 tribes

** Competitive Allocation

- With the exception of one entitlement benefit program, these programs are optional county programs and funding is allocated to county welfare departments on a competitive basis.
- The CDSS is responsible for soliciting county interest, reviewing program plans, and allocating funds to and supporting the work of participating county welfare departments.

Technical Assistance and Support

The Bureau also provides regular and targeted technical assistance related to housing and homelessness policy to county social services agencies throughout the state and nationwide.

- Monthly conference calls specific to each program with participation from all counties in receipt of program funds. These calls provide an opportunity for peer-sharing and targeted support from CDSS.
- Individualized county specific support including regular and ongoing telephone and email correspondence as well as in-person site visits and meetings. These are used to strategize on how to resolve county specific challenges, gather information on lessons learned, and support counties in procuring or expanding housing opportunities by way of federally funded affordable housing vouchers and connecting social services agencies to their local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) for additional permanent housing options that may benefit clients served by the county.
- Webinars are provided to support counties in securing housing, successful budgeting strategies, and using data to continuously improve the program.
- Program-specific learning forums hosted by CDSS which provide training from national, state, and local experts in the housing and homelessness field. These Learning Forums include training on Housing First and evidence-based housing interventions including Homelessness Prevention and Diversion, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing, strategies on how best to facilitate collaboration between the social services agency and the local homelessness system and using data to continuously improve the quality of programs and measure outcomes.
- The Bureau shares resources and training materials published by our state and federal counterparts (HCD, HUD, USICH, etc.) and promotes opportunities to attend national and statewide level housing and homelessness conferences to share strategies and hear lessons learned.
- The Bureau works with national experts in the field of housing and homelessness in an effort to enhance the delivery of housing supports statewide. To support this work, the Bureau encourages continuous quality improvement as well as participation in formal program evaluations, when required by statute, in an effort to strengthen local program performance.
- The Bureau is frequently invited by national homelessness advocacy organizations to present best practices and lessons learned from our pilot programs at various national conferences; it is also often called upon when other states and counties throughout the nation seeking lessons learned on how they may replicate the CDSS funded programs.
- The Department also participates on statewide advisory councils, including the Housing Coordinating and Financing Council, with the goal of solidifying statewide coordination of housing and homelessness policy. Coordination of both statewide and local programs will help lead to more streamlined access to housing programs making safe and affordable housing available to more Californians.